

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Members' Meetings

THE following Members' Meetings are announced for the coming quarter.

Tuesday, April 16th, at 5.15 p.m. A lecture demonstration on "Researches in Chemical Contraception," by Dr. John R. Baker and Mr. R. M. Ranson. Some of the actual methods used in the speakers' laboratory will be demonstrated to the audience. There will be microscopic projections and lantern slides. NOTE.—This meeting is limited to Fellows and Members of the *Society*.

Tuesday, May 14th, at 4.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting. "Eugenics, Academic and Practical." *Speaker*: Professor R. A. Fisher, Sc.D., F.R.S.

Tuesday, June 18th, at 5.15 p.m. "Are the Principles of Eugenics most favoured by a Socialist or Capitalist State of Society?" *Speakers*: C. V. Drysdale, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., and T. Drummond Shiels, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.

All the meetings will be held at the Rooms of the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.

The Galton Dinner

At the Galton Dinner, which was held on February 16th, with Sir Humphry Rolleston, President of the *Eugenics Society*, in the chair, Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders read a paper (published on page 11) on "Eugenic Policy in the Light of Population Trends." Among the guests of the *Society*, to whom Sir Humphry Rolleston paid a graceful tribute, referring to them as "our friends who, as a child said, know all about us and still like us," were the Bishop of Southwark, Commissioner Lamb, Sir A. T. Wilson, M.P., Mr. S. P. Vivian (the Registrar-General), Mr. L. G. Brock (Chairman of the Departmental Committee on Sterilization), Dr. E. O. Lewis, Professor Winifred Cullis, Mr. Wilson Harris (Editor of *The Spectator*), and Mr. Aylmer Vallance (Editor of the *News Chronicle*).

In proposing the vote of thanks to the lecturer, Sir Arnold Wilson said that he wished the words spoken that night could be heard in both the Upper and Lower Houses, neither of which could legislate far in advance of public opinion. It was for the *Eugenics Society* to prepare the way for legislation by educating the public. For many years past legislation had tended to confer advantages on unmarried persons or childless couples, a state of affairs which could be remedied by a system of family allowances. If men and women were to be paid by the value of their production, surely healthy children could be reckoned of all products the most valuable and necessary. Sir Arnold greatly regretted that the Government had decided against a census in 1936, but this policy of inaction should at least give us time to digest the wealth of information recently published by one of the guests of the evening, Mr. Vivian, whose masterly deductions from the mass of the material resulting from the 1931 Census deserved most careful study. Taking at random a few examples of the material to be found in the Registrar-General's reports, the speaker pointed out that the marriage-rate was at its highest in the distressed area of Durham and at its lowest in Hertfordshire where unemployment was at a minimum. The excess of women over men was at its lowest in the age-groups between 18 and 40, the apparent difference being due to the absence abroad on business or in the service of the State of many males in these age-groups and the greater liability of younger males to death in industry.

"The future," he concluded, "is hidden from us, as it was hidden from our forefathers. We shall face it more boldly if we remember how dark to their eyes was the path which they trod. We and they are one, for the soul of a nation lives in the past as in the present. From the love of our fathers and mothers we inherit confidence in and love for each other; from their courage, courage; from their hopes, hope and desire—desire to live with and to serve each other

and to bear children—a legacy worthy of the great company who, having served their generation, died strong in the same love and faith. The individual dies, but the nation, of which he was, during his short life, a living part, endures. This knowledge gives dignity and meaning to life. The *Eugenics Society* can help and is helping men to realize how great is the opportunity if we will but take it, to pass on the torch to those who are fit to bear it.”

Commissioner Lamb, seconding the vote of thanks, said that the *Eugenics Society* should engage in the campaign against war, which destroyed first the very biological types—the strongest and most virile—which in a eugenic sense were best worth saving.

Genetics of Amentia

At a Members' Meeting of the *Eugenics Society*, on Tuesday, March 19th, Dr. Frederick Grundy, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Willesden, read a paper on “The Genetics of Amentia.” The President of the *Society*, Sir Humphry Rolleston, was in the chair.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Grundy explained that, during the years 1931 to 1933, he had carried out a survey of the family histories and circumstances of all the mental defectives in a comparatively isolated area in East Anglia. It became apparent to him that the great majority of school-children classified as defective were merely extremely dull, distinguished from those usually classified as “dull and backward” by a purely arbitrary borderline, and it was among defectives of this class that hereditary influences were most in evidence. The use of the single term “feeble-minded” in two distinct senses, both of which were legal and not scientific, introduced difficulties into genealogical inquiries, particularly as there was a wide disparity between the standards used for educational and social purposes.

This subcultural amentia, said Dr. Grundy, had no pathology in the ordinary sense of the word, and the subjects thereof could properly be regarded as the analogues of 5 ft. persons in a community in which the average height was 5 ft. 6 in., and in which a few members

attained 6 ft. Although the exact mode of transmission of subcultural amentia could not be stated, certain general conclusions were, nevertheless, possible. Briefly stated they were as follows:

1. Roughly 75 per cent. of defectives of all grades came of stocks which exhibited distinct mental abnormalities, of which deficiency and gross dullness were the commonest.
2. Of the remaining 25 per cent., a few were attributable to environmental causes, but most were without apparent cause.
3. Feeble-mindedness and dullness were familial to a much greater extent than lower-grade deficiency.
4. The mating of two mentally defective individuals yielded offspring who were all defective.
5. The mating of two individuals of “poor type” yielded offspring of “poor type,” who were often defectives in an educational and sometimes in a social sense.
6. “Dull parents, dull children,” was a usual association.
7. When a neuropathic stock existed, the chance presence of an adverse environment, using the term in its broadest sense, tended to produce actual deficiency in persons who might not have been defective without the intervention of such a factor.

The lecturer then considered the question whether there was any urgent need for drastic action designed to control the incidence of amentia, and gave it as his opinion that the greatest need of the moment was for systematic genetic surveys preferably carried out by a State department over at least two generations. He believed, however, that although the problem was not nearly as urgent socially as many other problems of civilization—such, for example, as the avoidance of the wholesale destruction of sound lives by warfare—yet there was a valuable place for certain provisional measures. Among these he suggested the following:

1. The prevention of parenthood among all persons who were feeble-minded in a social sense.
2. The painless extermination of imbeciles and idiots as they arose. He made it clear that there was no indication for this action on eugenic grounds, for these lower-grade defectives had a very low

fertility. Nor did he favour such action on economic grounds; but solely on humanitarian grounds, arguing that it was unfair to the idiots themselves, and to their parents who were normal individuals, to allow their survival.

Dr. Grundy concluded his address in the following terms: "Eugenic policy, like other measures of preventive medicine, can only be successful in so far as it is in step with public opinion, but it is my view that the general body of opinion in these matters does not lag greatly in a temporal sense behind the most enlightened opinion of the day. The mere fact that such bodies of advanced thinkers as this and kindred societies have crystallized out of the general social milieu is sufficient to presage a broader understanding amongst the general population.

"I am not astonished that active measures of positive and negative eugenics are at present outside the scope of practical politics, but I am appalled that the Government has made no move to collect systematic genetic records, which might, perhaps, assist future generations to face problems that we, in our lack of knowledge, bequeath to them in a confusion of conflicting sentiments."

Race Mixture

On January 28th, Dr. K. B. Aikman read a paper to the Victoria Institute, Westminster, on "Race Mixture with some reference to Bible History." He said that hybridization between the primary races was often detrimental biologically, owing to the production of a chaotic constitution, while crossing between kindred races tended to be bad rather from environmental effects and marital incompatibility. In Deuteronomy, the Israelites were warned against mixed marriages for environmental reasons, and the validity of the warnings was proved by their subsequent history. Environmental effects, however, could be corrected by environment and this was done; but the temptation to hybridization and irreparable biological deterioration was avoided by placing the Israelites among kindred peoples instead of among Mongolians or Negroes.

The truth of the views expressed was demonstrated from Bible history as well as from that of our own times. This showed that the Bible history was the real story of a real people. The problems of race mixture surpassed in importance almost every other problem, especially for the English-speaking peoples, and demanded the most careful study and action. Their importance was vital, not only to the individual, to the nation, to the Empire and to the Caucasian race, but to the whole world and to all that was understood by civilization.

Eugenics and Religion

At the Conference of Educational Associations held last January, the Rev. J. C. Pringle delivered an address on "Eugenics and Religion."

The speaker said that all the great religions had been intensely eugenic. Their vitality and extent depended upon emphasizing the "worthwhileness" of life. All those types to which this was a matter of indifference were necessarily undesirable to religious enthusiasts. An interesting example of this phenomenon was to be observed in the Roman Catholic Church of to-day. Its desire that the planet should contain only Roman Catholics—from its point of view a eugenic objective—was implemented by the endeavour to procure the maximum possible number of baptized Roman Catholics on the planet. To many, the tactics employed might appear from some points of view dysgenic: but that the general objective was eugenic must be conceded.

The speaker passed on to note the curious phenomenon that, while *ex hypothesi* religious people must be eugenists, the practical devices favoured by most eugenists of the present day, namely, contraception and sterilization, were strenuously opposed by certain religious communities. He submitted that the difference observable here was in regard to a detail of method, and not to a principle.

The moment humanity became interested in the quality of the race, and consequently in the quality of its own offspring both in

regard to nature and nurture, it began to put a restraint upon the sexual appetite. Whether celibacy, abstinence, contraception or sterilization were thought of, all were equally restraints of a very drastic character indeed when compared with unrestrained indulgence of this appetite. It became a matter of temperament, idiosyncrasy and circumstances which was adopted. This was the line taken by the Anglican Bishops at the last Lambeth Conference, and it must commend itself to most people. The Roman Catholic Church emphasized celibacy and abstinence, and excluded most forms of contraception and of sterilization. Its attitude thus appeared, on the argument, to turn upon a detail and not a principle.

The speaker then drew attention to the remarkable work by Dr. Joseph Unwin (Head of Cambridge House), recently published, first in summary form, under the title *Sexual Regulation and Human Behaviour*, and, more recently, in a large and voluminous tome entitled *Sex and Culture*.^{*} Dr. Unwin passed under review a tremendous array of sections of the human race, scrutinized from the point of view of their sexual regulations, if any. He declared that an impartial study of the material available must convince the student of the truth of this thesis, namely, that culture—and, for the enormous majority of the human race in all climes and times, Dr. Unwin identified culture with religious belief, forms and means of worship, etc.—was in direct ratio to sexual regulation; that where there was no regulation there was no interest in the spiritual aspect of life, no interest in survival after death, no form of worship, no place or means of worship, no culture and no civilization. *Pari passu* with the severity of sexual regulation were observed to develop all these features of human life, culminating in what he called the deistic type of culture and civilization.

The lecturer said that Dr. Unwin's argument appeared to him to reinforce his general belief that religion was generally eugenic in its nature, and that religious people would be found in practice to adopt those forms of

restraint and selection calculated to promote the increase of the type of character which they valued, and the decrease of other types.

The National Birth Control Association

THE work of the National Birth Control Association has progressed steadily since the new year and several new birth-control clinics have been started. Durham County Council has established six centres in different parts of the county; and other clinics have been opened by the Essex County Council, Ogmere and Garw, and the Greenwich, Derby and Goswell local branches of the National Birth Control Association.

A most successful meeting in support of the Goswell Clinic was held at Finsbury Town Hall on March 12th. Lady Denman was in the chair, and a large audience listened to a brilliant panel of speakers including Miss Rebecca West, Dr. Edith Summerskill, Mr. J. F. Horrabin and Mr. Hannen Swaffer. This clinic, which is to be held every Monday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. at 39 Spencer Street, Goswell Road, E.C.1, will meet an urgent need, as none of the existing clinics is within easy reach of this part of London.

Shoreditch Borough Council has passed an excellent scheme for the establishment of a gynaecological clinic at which birth-control advice will be given. Liverpool City Council has made a grant of £100 to the Voluntary Clinic, and Buckinghamshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council have voted sums of £30 and £15 for patients sent by their health authorities to the voluntary clinic.

A Northern Conference for doctors, clinic workers, and others interested will be held at York on June 5th, 1935. Great progress is being made in the North, and anyone who is interested and would like to be put in touch with the National Birth Control Organizer in that area is asked to write to Headquarters at 26 Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

MARGARET PYKE.

Birth Control International Centre

IN addition to its routine work, which has been defined as "directing a knowledge of

^{*} Reviewed on page 56.

contraception to all parts of the world, particularly to territories which have no birth-control organizations of their own," the Birth Control International Information Centre has been responsible during the past few months for an extensive propaganda campaign in India, conducted by Mrs. Edith How-Martyn, its Honorary Director. In the course of her tour Mrs. How-Martyn attended and spoke at the All-India Women's Conference which carried the following resolution: "This Conference is more than ever convinced that on account of the low standard of physique of women, high infant mortality, and increasing poverty of the country, instruction in methods of birth-control through recognized clinics is a necessity."

The President of the Centre, Mrs. Margaret Sanger, is continuing her campaign in the United States of America for freeing the medical profession from restrictions under which it labours both in receiving and transmitting birth-control information. The first two bills drafted to this end were defeated in the committee stage, but two new bills are now ready and educational propaganda work is still continuing.

The Centre has recently published, under the title *Birth Control in Asia*,* the report of a conference in which the subjects discussed were population problems in the East, the standard of living in Asia, and the practical problems of contraception in the East. The Report (edited by Michael Fielding) is a valuable mine of information, much of it unavailable elsewhere, for students of population and economics. The Centre has also recently issued an attractive pamphlet entitled *Woman of the Future*.† Both works may be obtained from the Centre, Parliament Mansions, London, S.W.1.

It may be added that demands for information on birth-control are increasing and that the Centre is glad to pass on to interested inquirers the comprehensive data on the problems and progress of birth-control that have been classified and made accessible in its files.

I. I. C.

National Baby Week

IN connection with National Baby Week, which will begin this year on July 1st, the National Baby Week Council is emphasizing in its propaganda the importance of the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the children from two to five years of age. The character and bodily health of the child depend both on parentage and nurture; and in this connection the National Baby Week Council is careful to distinguish between parentage and parentcraft. Parentage is taken to mean all those qualities of body and mind that are handed on by parents to their children. Parentcraft is the technique for wisely directing these qualities so as to produce the best results in bodily strength, mental capacity, resistance to disease, endurance, courage, and other individually and socially desirable characters.

The National Baby Week Council recognizes that the main foundations of health are laid before the child is born, though they may be greatly modified by influences brought to bear in infancy and early childhood. On these matters there is now an impressive volume of information for the guidance of parents; and the National Baby Week Council serves as a channel through which this information may be directed from the experts to the general public. Further information about the work of the Council may be obtained on application to the Secretary, 117 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

Committee against Malnutrition

PROFESSOR V. H. MOTTRAM will preside over a public meeting at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, on Thursday, May 16th, at 8 p.m., which has been called to consider problems connected with the health and nutrition of women and children in this country. Among the speakers will be Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., Dr. Janet M. Vaughan, who is well known for her work on anæmia, Dr. J. R. Marrick, professor of chemical pathology at London Hospital, and Dr. J. Needham, reader in biochemistry at Cambridge University. Tickets at one shilling each may be obtained from the honorary

* Reviewed on page 53. † Reviewed on page 64.

secretary, Committee against Malnutrition, 19c Eagle Street, London, W.C.1. The Committee, which is composed of members of the medical profession and of scientific and social workers, publishes a two-monthly publication dealing scientifically with every aspect of nutrition and malnutrition.

Positive Eugenics Committee

THE committee appointed by the Council to report upon family allowances and other matters connected with positive eugenics has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. D. V. Glass, B.Sc., for the task of assembling data upon problems that come within its reference. As secretary to the inquiry organized by the London School of Economics into changes in family life, and as a research assistant to Professor Bowley, Mr. Glass has had considerable experience in the conduct of sociological investigations. His valuable survey of divorce in England and Wales was published in the *Sociological Review* of July 1934.

Miss Pocock's New Appointment

THE Council has recently appointed Miss Hilda Pocock, S.R.N., M.I.H., to take charge of the *Society's* propaganda activities, and has voted the sum of £1,000 to cover all expenses connected with her work in the coming year.

During 1933-4, as recorded in the report of the *Society* for that period, Miss Pocock gave over one hundred lectures, mainly to audiences of working-class women, and conducted eugenics propaganda at "health weeks" throughout the country. Her recent exhibits at Selfridge's and the Ideal Home Exhibition have been favourably commented upon in the Press. In her propaganda Miss Pocock sets out to dispel the illusion that eugenics is a class doctrine aimed at diminishing the fertility of the so-called "lower" classes, and to this end she includes among her exhibits pedigrees which show very strikingly the inheritance of favourable and unfavourable biological qualities in families living in very diverse economic circumstances. Of particular interest

are her charts demonstrating the appearance of dramatic ability in successive generations of the Gielgud-Terry family and athletic prowess in the Phelps family.

Miss Pocock would be very grateful if Fellows or Members of the *Society* willing to address meetings or in other ways take part in eugenics propaganda would get in touch with her. There is a particular need for speakers in the provinces. We have good reason to hope that the increased expenditure on propaganda—in previous years the amount spent annually has been about £550—will result in a widening and intensification of the *Society's* activities in that direction.

Ideal Home Exhibition

THE *Eugenics Society's* stand at the recent Ideal Home Exhibition, Olympia, interested a large public which was attracted by the inscription that dominated the exhibit: The Foundation of an Ideal Home is a Healthy Family. The following simple but very effectively worded appeal for a positive eugenics policy was included in the invitation to the stand:

"There are many ways in which everyone can help to preserve the fine qualities of the race and reduce the number of children who are born to misery and suffering. In the many efforts that the nation is making to improve conditions, to use science for the relief of suffering, it is forgetting Heredity. But Nature never forgets. Heredity works all the time and we are not using its immense power in the best way. Some of the most valuable families, in every class of the community, are having so few children that they are in danger of dying out and so being lost to the future generations of our race."

Health and Housing Exhibition

THE Health and Housing Exhibition at Selfridge's was opened on March 11th by Sir Hilton Young, the Minister of Health, who we are glad to say spent a considerable amount of time at the *Eugenics Society's* stall. Among other visitors were Lady Hilton Young, Mr. Neville (Secretary to the Minister

of Health), Miss Haldane of the Carnegie Fund, Miss Haslett and Dr. Porter, Medical Officer of Health for Marylebone. It may be added that Dr. Porter, whose stand was close to ours, was most interested and helpful. Throughout the Exhibition the stand was crowded by visitors, and Mrs. Hodson, Mrs. Grant Duff and Mrs. Potton were most kind in helping with the demonstrations. The Press notices were very good.

H. POCKOCK.

Berlin "Wonder of Life" Exhibition

THE German authorities are this year making a great effort to teach biology by means of an exhibition which was opened in Berlin on March 23rd and will continue till May 5th. In an attractively got-up prospectus it is explained that there are two principles which may be regarded as the fundamental laws of life—namely the principle of division of labour and the "Führer" principle; and it is held necessary to understand these laws not only because human beings understand less about the working of their own bodies

than a driver does about the construction of his lorry but "because we are the witnesses of an epoch in which one man has taken upon himself the great task of regulating the life of his people according to the Laws of Life through which Nature herself is working."

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Erratum

WE regret that an error appeared in the advertisement published in our last issue (p. 286) of *Heredity in Man*, by Professor R. Ruggles Gates. The price of this book should have been stated as 24s.

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Life Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Eugenics Society* during the past quarter:

Mrs. Neill Grant Duff.	Miss M. E. Mumm.
Miss J. Gunson.	Dr. Morris Siegel.
*Mrs. Hawke.	T. R. Thomson, Esq.
M. H. Hawkins, Esq.	F. W. Wright, Esq.
*John H. Humphreys, Esq., J.P.	



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